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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Attorney Docket No.: **RP920000109US1**

In re Application of:

CROMER ET AL.

Serial No.: **09/847,085**

Filed: **2 MAY 2001**

For: **DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM
AND METHOD FOR PASSWORD
PROTECTING A BOOT DEVICE**

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Confirmation No.: **7195**

Examiner: **JACKSON, J.**

Art Unit: **2439**

REPLY BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply Brief is submitted in response to the Examiner's Answer dated February 19, 2009.

REMARKS

The real party of interest is now Lenovo Corporation.

On page 2 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner states that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, have been withdrawn for all claims. Thus, aside from the rejections on Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and on Claims 5-6, 10-11 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the remaining objection is on Claims 4, 9 and 14. The Examiner also states that Claims 4, 9 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Appellants rewrite Claims 4, 9 and 14 as follows:

4. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 1, comprising:

during a boot process, wherein interrogating said boot devices for said device password comprises interrogating a plurality of boot devices within a data processing system in sequence according to a priority order until a boot device supplies said a device password corresponding to that of a trusted boot device; and

in response to said boot device supplying a device password corresponding to that of said trusted boot device, booting said data processing system utilizing said boot device without the entry of any of said device password corresponding to that of said trusted boot device by a human user.

9. (currently amended) A The data processing system of Claim 7, comprising:

said data processing having a plurality of boot devices; including the boot device;

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor for communication, wherein said memory includes startup software capable of being executed by said processor during a boot process, wherein said startup software interrogates said plurality of boot devices for said device password in sequence according to a priority order until a boot device supplies a device password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device and, in response to said boot device supplying said device password, boots said data processing system utilizing said boot device without the entry of any of said device password by a human user.

14. (currently amended) A The program product of Claim 12, said for a data processing system having a plurality of boot devices including the boot device, said program product comprising:

a computer usable medium; and

startup software encoded within said computer usable medium, wherein said startup software causes the said data processing system to interrogate said plurality of boot devices for said device password in sequence according to a priority order until a boot device supplies a device password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device and, in response to said boot device supplying said device password, boots said data processing system utilizing said boot device without the entry of any of said device password by a human user.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event a fee or extension of time is required, please charge that fee or extension of time requested to the Lenovo Corporation Deposit Account **50-3533**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony P. Ng', with a stylized, flowing script.

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